

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John C. Opie et al. Docket No.: 032303.00018
Application No.: 10/559,400 Group Art Unit: 3763
Filing Date: May 25, 2006 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
TITLE SURGICAL DRAINS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO
37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of the foreign patent documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are submitted herewith. Copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii).

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to dispute any of the listed documents as prior art during examination. Further, Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the foregoing references, alone or in combination. The Examiner is requested to initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and return a copy thereof to the undersigned.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of the first Office action on the merits and therefore no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.18 (deficiency only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting official document under 37 C.F.R. §1.20, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 19-3878 for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

July 19, 2007
Date

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